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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9069  
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0083  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0090  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0172  
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0074  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0008  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 001121

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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/ELA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/12/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [LE](#) [SY](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: OMANI SUPPORT FOR LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS  
AND UN HARIRI TRIBUNAL

REF: STATE 163945

Classified By: Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

11. (C) The Ambassador delivered reftel demarche on December 12 during a meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary-General Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi. Sayyid Badr

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confirmed that Oman supported the holding of timely Lebanese presidential elections without linkage to other issues, but said that he did not think a public statement from Oman's government to this effect would be "helpful," and was therefore unlikely. He further remarked that Oman considered the presidential elections to be an internal Lebanese matter, although he quickly acknowledged that "everyone is meddling in it."

12. (C) Regarding the UN tribunal to try suspects in the assassination of former Lebanese PM Hariri, Sayyid Badr stated that the GCC had recently decided that it "cannot set a precedent" by complying with a request for a "joint commitment" to fund a set amount for the creation and operation of the tribunal. GCC countries, he explained, would instead decide "individually and voluntarily" on what financial support, if any, they would contribute towards the tribunal.

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